ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(FORMERLY CAHABA VALLEY ASSOCIATION.)

HELD WITH

New Prospect Baptist Church, Fairview, Ala.

September 10th, 1898.

31
1867

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

J. S. E. ROBINSON,..... Moderator.

N. A. HOOD.,..... Clerk.

J. M. ADKINS,..... Treasurer.

The next session of this Association will be held with Reeves Grove Church, which is situated on the "Old Georgia Road," one mile from Whitney, on the A. G. S. Railroad, and four miles from Ashville, on Saturday, before the second Sunday in September, 1899, at 10 o'clock a. m.

ASHVILLE, ALA.,
THE ACME PRINTING CO.,
1898.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MINUTES.

FAIRVIEW, ALA., September 10th, 1898.

The messengers sent by the various churches to compose the Thirty-First Annual Session of the Cahaba Valley Baptist Association, met this day with New Prospect Church, Fairview, Ala., at 10 o'clock a. m. After reading the 122d and 132d Psalms and the 4th chapter of Ephesians, prayer was offered by Rev. W. P. Lovell.

Letters from the churches were called for and read by J. B. Shurbet, A. A. Hodges and O. A. Hood. The following named churches were represented and the brethren herein named were enrolled as delegates, viz:

Ashville—Rev. J. A. Glenn, Rev. N. A. Hood, Rev. J. S. E. Robinson, J. R. Neely, A. A. Hodges and A. G. Nunnelly.
Bethany—R. B. Cash and J. H. Machen.
Beulah—John R. Dyke, R. J. Byers and J. B. Kincade.
Bethel—J. M. Adkins, J. K. Allison, L. V. B. Hawkins and R. F. Hawkins.
Broken Arrow—Rev. A. R. Wyatt W M. Scoggins, Hut Roberson and John Mitchell.
Cane Creek—G. W. Rowe.
Cedar grove—W. E. Elkins.
Cook Springs—R. A. Carraker, C. C. Clines and P. B. Perry.
Cool Springs—S. T Hess, T. D. Moore. J. W. Ramsey and E. G. Shew.
Eden—John McCombs, T. J. Taylor, G. W. McCombs and M. D. McCombs.
Friendship—S. B. Jackson, Jas. Aderholt, Buster Hess and A. V. Godard.
Gum Springs—Rev. A. P. Cobb, J. A. Lowery, A. L. McBrayer, J. F. Franklin and D. O. Palmer.
Greensport—Rev. H. N. Jones, J. R. Watson and Ira Harris.
Harmony—J M. Farley.
Hopewell—Rev. S. J. Hare, J. A. Thompson, O. A. Hood and W. A. Dorsett.
Macedonia—J. D. Chamness.
Mt. Castle—J. T. Gann and T. Day.,
Mt. Pisgah—J. B. Shurbet and J R. Davis.
Mt. Pleasant—Jesse Drummond and J. M. Rich.
Mt. Zion—Rev. J. C. Harris.
New Hope (St. Clair)—J. M. Garrett and S. H. Roberson.
New Hope (Jefferson)—Rev. F. F. Green, M. S. Glass and J. P. Cambron.
New Lebanon—W. M. Simmons and D. L. Simmons.

New Prospect—P. E. Wyatt, E. M. Chapman, S. Gothard, Jas. Barber and J. R. Walker.
Pleasant Grove (St. Clair)—Rev. C. J. Pike, L. G. Stone and Jos. Yarbrough.
Pleasant Grove (Shelby)—Rev. W. I. Brasher, D. A. Whitfield and J. M. Mundine.
Pleasant Site—J. A. Howard.
Pine Forest—S. B. Crow, James McCrory and Vester McCrory.
Providence—Rev. J. O. Layton and Allen Green.
Pleasant Ridge—S. J. Daniel and W. H. Batton.
Ragland—W. W. Griffin and J. K. Powell.
Reeves Grove—John Partlow, J. M. Allman and J. F. Gray.
Rock Springs—J. C. McGill and H. L. McGill.
Sand Ridge—J. P. Isbell.
Shiloh—Elias Patterson and T. J. Johnston.
Sulphur Springs—
Trinity—W. A. Richey and Thomas Howard.
Union—Rev. J. W. Perry.
Union Springs—Rev. J. W. Lawley, W. W. Adkins, William Crumpton and Thomas Hawkins.

The letters having been read and the names of the delegates having been enrolled, the Association proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year, which election resulted as follows: J. S. E. Robinson was elected Moderator, N. A. Hood Clerk, and J. M. Adkins Treasurer. Adjourned one hour for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association having been regularly called to order at the hour of 2 o'clock, J. W. Lawley preached the introductory sermon from First Cor. 1-10.

The following order of business was adopted:

1. Devotional exercises.
2. Reading letters from the churches.
3. Election of officers.
4. Introductory sermon.
5. Call for petitionary letters.
6. Call for correspondents.
7. Appointment of committees to report at present session.
8. Report of standing committees.
9. Miscellaneous business.

Special committees may report at any time in the session. The Association shall meet at 8:30 a. m., shall have recess at 12 m. for one hour, afternoon session shall convene at 1 o'clock p. m. and shall adjourn at will.

Petitionary letters were called for, whereupon a letter from Ragland Church was presented, naming W. W. Griffin and J. K. Powell as its representatives. The letter was read, the church was received into the Association and the Moderator extended to its representatives the hand of fellowship. A letter, naming Rev. A. C. Compton and Moses Pierce as its representatives to the Association, was also presented from Rehobah Church. Upon objections being made to receiving it because of its not having been organized in ac-

cordance with Baptist usage, the church withdrew its application for membership in the Association.

Upon a call being made for correspondents Rev. J. W. Sandline was received as a representative of the State Mission Board.

The following committee on devotional exercises for the present session of the Association was appointed by the Moderator: J. R. Neely, J. A. Thompson and the deacons of New Prospect Church.

Volunteers were called for to represent this Association in other bodies with which it corresponds. Whereupon J. A. Glenn volunteered to go to the State Convention; J. C. Bice and J. A. Glenn, to the Marshall Association; Joseph Yarbrough and J. M. Garrett, to the Coosa River Association.

On motion the Association adjourned to meet at 8:30 a. m. Sunday.

Prayer by Rev. J. W. Sandline.

Rev. C. J. Pike preached at 7 o'clock p. m. Saturday.

SUNDAY MORNING.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator who read the 17th chapter of John. Prayer was offered by James Barber. J. W. Inzer, chairman of committee on Sabbath schools, being absent, his report was read by Rev. N. A. Hood, and, after discussion by N. A. Hood, J. W. Lawley, J. C. Harris, W. P. Lovell, Allen Green, S. B. Crow, J. B. Shurbet, F. F. Green, W. A. Dorsett, J. W. Ramsey, A. A. Hodges and others, was adopted.

The following is the report:

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sunday Schools submit the following:

That the Sunday school work is the work of the churches and should be earnestly and zealously supported by every church within the bounds of this Association and by every individual church member.

That Sunday schools should be organized under the auspices of the church and in each church within our bounds, and should be kept up for fifty-two Sundays in the year, and that can be done if the brethren but unite their efforts and resolve that by the grace of God it shall be done.

That it is not in keeping with Baptist teachings to oppose the Sunday school work; but, as Baptists, all should contribute their mite and move forward in this great work, and in contributing to and in enlarging of Baptist schools everywhere.

That the way to make the work useful and beneficial is for one or both of the parents to attend school with the children every Sunday. Parents should not say to their children GO, but rather say COME. If this rule is followed the school will be one of interest every Sunday in the year.

That the Bible should be taught in our Sunday schools, and we also recommend Kind Words Sunday school literature.

We recommend that the ministers in charge of churches in our bounds preach at least one sermon in each year on Sunday school work, its relation to the church, and the benefits and blessings to our church and people arising therefrom.

We note with pleasure the gaining interest in the work in our churches and among our people, and have cause to believe it will not be long until a

good Sunday School will be in operation in every church in this Association, and that the young and old alike will come together on every Sunday to study God's word.

We recommend that the churches report to this body at its annual meetings in their letters, their Sunday Schools and the good results arising from the same. Respectfully submitted, JOHN W. INZER, Chairman.

A recess of fifteen minutes was had, after which the missionary sermon was preached by Rev. J. A. Glenn from Matthew, 26-18 and 19. A collection for missions being taken, $10.68 was received.

Adjourned one hour for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

On reassembling after dinner the Association was called to order by the Moderator, and Rev. J. W. Stewart, of the Orphans' Home, preached from Romans, 10-16.

On motion, the reports on missions were postponed till Monday at 8:30 a. m.

The report on temperance was read by N. A. Hood, chairman of the committee, and, after discussion by N. A. Hood, C. J. Pike, J. A. Glenn, J. A. Thompson, J. C. Harris and J. W. Sandline, it was adopted.

The following is the report:

TEMPERANCE.

As chairman of the Committee on Temperance, appointed at last session of this Association and in writing what is usually termed a report, I am at a loss just how to proceed. In my humble opinion the word or term "temperance" is not a fitting term for this age; times change, conditions change and public opinion in a great degree has changed in regard to the uses of alcoholic drinks. But few of our fathers were total abstainers. They made brandy from their fruit, whiskey from their corn, kept it in their homes, and in the main they were temperate in its use, and the term temperance properly applied to them. But we are called upon to meet the conditions as they apply to us and not to them. Our fathers were good men, but they eat sour grapes (innocently) and it put the children's teeth on "edge," and probably we are reaping from their temperate sowing. Their example is often referred to, by those who drink, in justification of their habit of drink, and their temperate use of liquor does not seem to have had very great immediate effect upon them, yet their example is surely having a baneful effect upon their children. The consumption of liquor is increasing yearly and more men are filling drunkards graves now than in any period of the world's history. Our fathers kept it and drank it through life and the greater part of them remained temperate, but the habitual drinker of today very seldom remains temperate. The appetite seems to be greater and the thirst for strong drink has been sharpened and the temptation to drunkness seems to be greater with us than with them, and no doubt we have inherited this condition from them, and such is our condition that we dare not attempt to use it even in moderation if we would be sober men. The immediate effect of its use as to influence was not felt then as now. The outside world in this age regard its use by Christians as evil and the time has passed when church members can use it even in moderation and be regarded as consistent Christians, then the demand upon church members of today is total abstinence, and the question of temperance or the moderate use of liquors by such, is regarded, and rightly

so, unbecoming and un-Christian and cannot properly be applied to this age; therefore the questions to be discussed by our religious assemblages are prohibition and total abstinence. Baptists should be universally opposed to the making, selling or the useing of this the greatest evil known to mankind and our religious institutions. Then why should Christians drink, sign petitions to sell or in any way encourage its use by others? It has been said that if all church members were total abstainers the business in many places would be abandoned. Is this charge true? If so, then shame upon our Christianity. The motto of Baptists should be "Touch not, taste not, handle not the unclean thing," and the effort by the churches should be to prohibit its sale, deal with drunkenness by withdrawing fellowship from those who drink to drunkenness, remonstrate with those who insist on its use in moderation. The moderate drinker is by reason of his influence more hurtful to sobriety than the confirmed inebriate, for no one wants to pattern after the example of the drunkard, but the modest dram drinker is being taken for example by many of the young men of our country, and while the exempler may live and die and be regarded as a sober man, yet his imitator or follower will, in all probability, fill a drunkard's grave. To say that liquor is not the greatest evil of this age would be untrue. It is so regarded by the world, and yet men make it and drink it and many church members encourage its sale and use which is un-Christian, and such members should be dealt with, charged with immoral conduct, to say the least. Our churches should be more vigilent in dealing with and in drivnig out this evil. Our pastors should wake up on the subject and lose no opportunity in condemning its sale, manufacture or its use in any form except as prescribed by physicians, and then only when it is absolutely necessary. Let Baptist stand for prohibition and total abstinence. Respectfully submitted, N. A. Hood, Chairman Committee.

The following committees were announced by the Moderator:

Committee on Nommations—J. W. Ramsey, J. A. Lowery, P. E. Wyatt, J. M. Garrett and J. R. Neely.

Committee on Finances—J. B. Shurbet, J. K. Allison and J. M. Allman.

The report on Documents was read by J. W. Lawley, chairman of committee, and adopted.

The following is the report:

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

We, your Committee on Documents, submit the following report:

We recommend the Alabama Baptist as our organ as a sound religious paper for our Baptist people. Also we would recommend Home Field, Foreign Mission Journal and Kind Words Sabbath school literature. We would urge our denomination to use all the literature fostered by us as Baptists. J. W. Lawley, Chairman Committee.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises made the following report:

Rev. J. W. Sandline to preach at New Prospect church and Rev. W. I. Brasher to preach at Wright's School House tonight.

On motion the Association adjourned to meet at 8:30 o'clock Monday morning. Prayer by the Moderator.

MONDAY MORNING.

The Association was called to order promptly at 8:30 a. m. Mon-

day, and after reading of the 19th Psalm by the Moderator prayer was offered by Rev. J. W. Sandline.

The roll was called and absentees noted and, by order of the Association, the names of all absentees were stricken from the minutes.

Upon a call being made for correspondents, W. M. Hall, of the Coosa River Association, was received.

Upon a call for the report on Foreign Missions A. A. Hodges read the following:

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

To the Members of the Cahaba Valley Baptist Association:

We, the undersigned, who were appointed at the last session of the Association a committee to prepare and present to this body at its present session a report on foreign missions, beg leave to submit the following report:

1. We are pleased to report that the opposition to foreign missions is a thing that is almost unknown to our churches, so far as an open expression can be taken as the basis upon which to make our report.

2. While much advancement has been made by us as a denomination in this great work we fear that the cause is not in that flourishing state that it should be, and while we are willing to admit that a great many things over which we have no control have contributed to the present condition of the work, we fear a great many who are able to do more are using them in defence of an imaginary excuse.

3. The American people have assumed more and greater responsibilities since the last session of this Association than for many years theretofore, and the question with us as a denomination, is, shall we fail to assume our prorata share of the work and go forward in its discharge with renewed energy.

4. It has been our observation that the want of interest in our mission work is the result of a want of information on the workings of our missionary boards. A great many of our people are not informed on the subject further than to make their contributions. They do not follow up the work to see what good is being accomplished by our people—hence a want of enthusiasm in the cause is the result.

5. For this state of affairs our ministry is largely responsible They do not give the information to their churches that is within their reach. Not only should our people have this subject presented to them, but they should be impressed with the importance of discharging their full duty all along the line.

6. We will further state that to some extent the manner of our missionary work is being changed and is bearing good results in this: It is now almost a conceded fact that Christian schools should precede the work of the ministry, thus preparing the mind of the heathen for the work of the spirit before his true condition is made known to him.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. EMBRY, Chairman of Committee.

Motion carried to read all the reports on missions before discussion.

Rev. J. C. Harris, chairman of the committee, read the following report on state missions:

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

We, your committee on State Missions, beg leave to make the following report:

State missions is the foundation of home and foreign missions. Through the untiring energy of our state employees, the very gratifying results of our home and foreign boards were made possible. But in bringing about these glorious results, our state finances have been neglected and consequently our state board is greatly in debt.

Your committee recommends that our churches come to the immediate aid of this department of our work and enable our board to go to the next Southern Baptist Convention free from debt.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. HARRIS, Chairman Committee.

Rev. S. J. Hare, chairman of committee on Home Missions, stated that he had made no report because of the absence of statistics. On motion of N. A. Hood he was instructed to get a minute of Southern Baptist Convention and compile from it some statistics, as a report, to be handed to clerk to be incorporated in the minutes of this Association.

The following is the report as handed in by Brother Hare:

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

We, your committee, to whom was assigned the subject of Home Missions, submit the following:

We have examined a minute of the Southern Baptist Convention and have compiled from the statistics therein found a summary of the work done and of the expenses of the Home Mission Board of the Convention within its bounds. The summary of work and expenses for the past conventional year is as follows:

Missionaries,	467
Weeks of labor,	11,407
Churches and stations,	1,960
Sermons and addresses,	49,306
Prayer meetings,	10,359
Religious visits,	59,841
Baptisms,	4,739
Received by letter,	4,770
Total additions,	9,509
Churches constituted,	103
Houses of worship built,	45
Houses of worship improved,	68
Amount expended on houses of worship,	$59,625
Sunday schools organized,	297
Teachers and pupils.	7,710
Bibles and Testaments,	4,668
Tracts distributed (pages),	1,580,741

The amount raised and expended on the field for Home Missions this year is $54,251.04 against $45,671.82 last year. There have been collected and expended in building houses of worship on the field this year $56,385.46 against $51,540 last year, making a total of money raised on the field this year $110,636.50 against a total raised on the field last year of $97,211:82, an increase of $13,424.68. Total cash received by the board from all sources has been $86,887.27 against $83.184.31. an increase of $3,702.96.

Notwithstanding the great work mentioned above, there are yet many people within the bounds of the Southern Baptist Convention who are not hearing the gospel as Baptists preach it. This is especially true in some of the large cities of the South. In St. Louis, a city of 700,000, there are only 4,000 white Baptists, In Baltimore, a city of 500,000, there are 10,000 white Baptists. In New Orleans, a city of 300,000, there are only 1,000 white Baptists. In Memphis, a city of 110,000, there are only 1,600 white Baptists. Catholics predominate in these cities.

There has been no missionary work done within the bounds of our Association in the past year, but we have every reason to believe that those who care to hear the gospel have not been destitute of its teachings.

Respectfully submitted,

S. J. HARE, Chairman of Committee.

Rev. J. A. Glenn offered the following amendment to the report on State Missions: "We recommend that each church in this Association proceed to take a collection for State Missions at its earliest opportunity and forward the money received to W. C. Bledsoe, Secretary of State Mission board, immediately, so that he may be able to discharge the obligations of the board. Amendment accepted by chairman of committee on State Missions.

The several reports, after being discussed by J. A. Glenn, J. W. Sandline, J. W. Stewart, J. W. Lawley, S. J. Hare and C. J. Pike, were adopted.

The report on Ministerial Education being called for, Rev. J. A. Glenn, chairman of the committee, read the following:

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

To preach is to teach; to educate the ministry is to help them to preach. It is possibly late to argue the question as to whether it is true that a man must know something before it is possible for him to teach. Paul said to Timothy, "Study to show thyself a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly divining the word." If to study does not imply learning, what does it mean?

2. What should be learned? The Bible is the great book of theology. No one can be a safe exponent of the truths and doctrines of the Bible unless he be somewhat familiar with its teachings; no one can learn the truths of the gospel unless he understand at least to some extent the language in which it is written. In our opinion the better he understands, the better for the cause.

3. How shall he learn? It has become to be a practice with us to assist young brethren in obtaining a better education, which is a wise cause wisely followed. Yet it is so easy for us to abuse a good thing; in our opinion it is best for a young man to educate himself—a thing that is possible, in this our day, with grit, grace and determination. This course may be very slow. Therefore may it not be best to aid worthy young men in preparing for this life work?

4. Objections to ministerial education.

It is said by some that it looks like we have a standing denominational bid for the privilege of educating any young man who may set up or express a desire to preach, without any regard to his merit or financial condition. We think this a mistaken idea; the churches are called upon to settle all these questions. We think it commendable in a young man to accept aid, yet we think he should do all he can to help himself,

In conclusion we would say to this Association that, in our opinion, there is no enterprise more worthy than that of encouraging young ministers and in aiding such as are worthy in procuring such an education as will qualify them to understand the language they must use to present the truth effectively. Respectfully submitted,

J. A. GLENN, Chairman of Committee.

After discussion by J. A. Glenn and others, the report was adopted. A cash collection and pledges were taken for ministerial education and $48.50 in pledges and $1.75 in cash was received.

The following is the list of churches and amounts pledged or paid by each of them:

Ashville,	$20.00	Reeves Grove,	5.00
Hopewell,	3.00	Union Springs, by Lawley & Adkins,	2.00
Bethel,	2.00	Pine Forest,	1.00
Coal City.	5.00	Mt. Zion,	1.00
Cook Springs,	2.00	Cedar Grove (cash),	.25
Cool Springs,	2 00	F. F. Green,	1.00
Gum Springs,	3.50	E. M. Chapman (cash)	.50
Cane Creek,	1.00		
Mt. Pisgah (cash),	1.00		
Total			$50.25

Rev. J. W. Stewart was given an opportunity to put before the Association the condition and needs of the Orphans' Home, after which a collection for the home was taken and $17.38 was received.

On motion of J. A. Glenn the treasurer was instructed to turn over to Rev. J. W. Sandline, representing the State Mission board, the amounts sent up to the Association by the various churches for missions and the amount received from the collection Sunday.

On motion of N. A. Hood the amounts sent up by the various churches, and the amount received from the collection for the Orphanage was turned over to Rev. J. W. Stewart.

E. B. Moore, chairman of committee on education, being absent, no report on education was had.

On motion the regular order of business was suspended and the committee on Finance made the following report:

We, your committee on finance, submit the following report:

Received for minutes,	$37.25
Received for missions (Sunday's collection).	10.68
Received for missions, state,	.77
Received for missions, home,	6.95
Received for missions, foreign,	8.16
Received for missions in general,	45.60
Received for Orphans' Home,	4.75
Received for ministerial education,	3.55
Received for Brother Stone (an indigent minister),	5.00
Total amount collected in cash.	$122.21

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. Shurbet,
J. K. Allison,
J. M. Allman.

The following committees were appointed to report at next session of this Association:

Committee on Foreign Missions—A. A. Hodges, J. W. Ramsey and J. M. Allman.

Committee on Home Missions—A. R. Wyatt, R. M. Alverson and E. M. Chapman.

Committee on State Missions—J. B. Shurbet, J. M. Garrett and T. R. Beavers.

Committee on Ministerial Education—J. W. Inzer, J. R. Neely and S. T. Hess.

Committee on Education—W. R. Hood, S. J. Hare and J. E. Stevenson.

Committee on Temperance—I. W. Inzer, J. M. Adkins and W. E. Elkins.

Committee on Sabbath Schools—J. C. Harris, H. N. Hess and P. E. Wyatt

Committee on moral and spiritual condition of our churches—C. J. Pike, C. D Alverson and W. 1. Brasher.

Committee on Documents—J. L. Mize, Jerry Harris and John W. Perry.

On motion of N. A. Hood Art. 1 of the constitution of this Association was amended so as to read as follows: "This Association shall be known by the name of the St. Clair County Baptist Association" Motion carried.

Upon the call for the Treasurer's report, the following was read and adopted:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Paid to Bro. J. W. Sandline,	$74.16
Paid to Bro. J. W. Stewart,	4.75
Paid on ministerial reducation	3.75
Paid to clerk for minutes,	37.25
Total,	$119,91

Respectfully submitted,
J. M. Adkins, Treasurer.

The Committee on Nominations made the following report:

"We, the Committee on Nominations, beg leave to submit the following:

"We nominate Reeves Grove and Cedar Grove churches as the churches with which this Association may hold its next meeting and recommend a vote of the Association to determine which one of the places it will select. We appoint N. A. Hood as a delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention and J. A. Glenn as alternate. We recommend Brother W. P. Lovell to preach the introductory sermon at the next session of this body and Brother N. A. Hood to preach the missionary sermon." J. W. Ramsey,

Chairman of Committee.

In accordance with the recommendation of the committee, as to place of holding next meeting of the Association, a vote was taken on the two churches before the body, which resulted in the selection of Reeves Grove church. With this amendment the report was adopted.

The following resolution was offered by Rev. J. W. Lawley: "Resolved, that the thanks of this Association be tendered to the brethren and sisters of New Prospect church and the citizens of the surrounding community for their hospitality during its session in their midst." Resolution adopted.

The following resolution was offered by Rev. J. C. Harris: "Resolved, that the clerk of this Association shall receive $8.00 for his services, and that he have as many minutes published with the remainder of the minute fund as is possible and distribute the same in proportion to the amount of said fund sent up by each church." Resolution adopted.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your committee recommend that for the next Associational year this body raise for missions, ministerial education and other purposes connected with our work the sum of three hundred dollars, and your committee makes the following apportionment of same to the churches within our bounds towit:

Ashville	$50.00	Mount Pisgah	$15.00
Bethany	5 00	New Prospect (Jefferson Co.)	3.00
Bethel	10.00	New Hope "	4.00
Beulah	15.00	New Hope (St. Clair Co.)	40.00
Cedar Grove	6.00	New Prospect	10.00
Cane Creek	3.00	Pine Forest	5.00
Coal City	10.00	Pleasant Grove (Shelby Co.)	3.00
Cooke Springs	10.00	Pleasant Site "	3.00
Cool Springs	10.00	Pleasant Grove (St. Clair co.)	3.00
Eden	5.00	Providence	5.00
Friendship (St. Clair county)	10.00	Rock Springs	5.00
Greensport	5.00	Reeve's Grove	10.00
Gum Springs	20.00	Sand Ridge	2.00
Harmony (St. Clair county)	3.00	Shiloh	3.00
Pleasant Ridge	5.00	Sulphur Spr'gs (Jefferson co)	5.00
Hopewell (St. clair county)	15.09	Trinity (Shelby co.)	3.00
Mount Castle	3.00	Union (St. Clair co.)	2.00
Mount Pleasant	10.00	Union Springs	5.00
New Lebanon	5.00		
Total			$300.00

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. INZER, Chairman.

After singing the song, "How Firm a Foundation," prayer was offered by Rev. J. A. Glenn and the Association adjourned to meet in its next session with Reeves Grove Church one mile north of the town of Whitney on the A. G. S. Railroad and four miles from Ashville, on Saturday before the second Sunday in September, 1899, at 10 o'clock a. m. J. S. E. ROBINSON, Moderator.

NOAH A. HOOD, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

1. This Association shall be known by the name of THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

2. It shall be composed of delegates from the different churches in connection with this body.

3. Petitionary churches may be admitted into this body at any regular session, if, upon due examination, they be found orderly and orthodox, and their reception shall be manifested by the Moderator's giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

4. Any church may withdraw from this body at her own discretion, on application for dismission.

5. This body shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union nor infringe on any of their internal rights, but shall be considered only an advisory council relative to their internal affairs. It, however, may become necessary in some cases to have a uniform rule of proceedings. viz: If one church commits offense against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction. If she fail of success she shall call in the aid of two sister churches to assist in laboring for satisfaction; if satisfaction cannot be thus obtained, it shall be the duty of the aggrieved church to bring the case before the Association, to be decided upon according to its merits. And if a serious difficulty should arise

in an individual church, which, upon due labor, she cannot reconcile, she may call in the aid of two or more churches to assist her in the work ; then if the difficulty be not removed it may be the duty of the church to bring the case before the Association ; but the Association will take cognizance of no case unless due course of proceedure has been previously pursued.

6. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of this Association written communications, specifying the names of their messengers, and state of the church since the last session.

7. Every church in our union shall be entitled to representation in the following manner, viz: A church containing fifty or less members shall be entitled to three representatives and one additional representative for every twenty-five members over fifty. Any church failing to represent herself as above described shall state her reason for such failure at the next annual session.

8. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular Rule of Decorum, which she is authorized to alter or amend at her discretion.

9. At every annual session of the Association a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer shall be chosen by ballot by and from the members present, and shall hold their offices until their successors are chosen. The Moderator shall preside over the deliberations of the body, preserve order and see that the Rules of Decorum are strictly observed. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a proper record of all transactions of the body. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all moneys from the hands of the Finance Committee and pay them out according to the order of the Association.

10. The Association shall have power to exclude from her union any church which shall violate the Constitution or depart from the orthodox principles of the Gospel or knowingly suffer any of her members to do so.

11. The Association shall furnish the churches with the Minutes of each session according to the funds sent up by each church.

12. Every query sent up by a particular church must be in her letter, certifying that she has endeavored to reconcile such difficulty and has failed. In such case the Association shall take it under consideration, and the voice of a majority shall be considered an advisory answer, which shall be enrolled upon the minutes.

13. Queries that immediately concern the general union of churches, sent up by a particular church or introduced by a proper motion, shall be taken up and decided upon as soon as practicable.

14. There shall be an Association book provided, in which the Minutes of every annual session shall be recorded.

15. The Association shall not adjourn any annual session until she shall have finished all regular business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

16. Minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, and, if necessary, signed by the Moderator and Clerk before final adjournment.

17. In all cases a majority of the members present of the Association shall rule under the Constitution,

18. Giving or withholding charity from any benevolent object shall not be considered a breach of fellowship by this Association.

19. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any annual session when two-thirds of the members present think it necessary.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. The Moderator shall be deemed a judge of order, and shall have a right to call to order at any time. It shall be his duty also to see that the Rules of Decorum are strictly observed, to take the opinion of the Association on all questions properly brought before the body; and any member not satisfied with his decision on any point of order may appeal to the Association on the day of the decision, and at no other time.

3. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a record of the transactions of the Association.

4. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and disburse all monies belonging to the Association according to its directions.

5. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator, using the appellation of "brother" in all discussions.

6. The Moderator, when addressed for leave of speech, shall signify the same by naming the brother, or otherwise.

7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject or use words of personal reflection. except it be to obtain order for a particular purpose.

8. Any motion made and seconded shall come under consideration, except withdrawn by him who made it

9. The Moderator, after allowing time for debate, shall take the voice of the Association on questions that have been brought before it; and, if need be by a rising vote.

10. When any question has been brought before the body, it must first be disposed of before any other question can be taken up.

11. No member shall depart during the service of the Association without leave.

12. The roll may be called as often as may be expedient.

13. No person shall be indulged in any practice that may cause interruption, or dshonor the Association.

14. The Moderator shall be allowed the privilege of debate, provided he appoint some other member to fill his seat while speaking; but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided, and then he shall give the casting vote.

15. No member of this body shall be permitted to speak more than twice on the same subject, unless to explain, without first obtaining leave from the Association.

16. Any member violating these rules shall be called to order by the Moderator, or removed at the discretion of the Association, but only on the day the breach is made.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

N. A. Hood, J. A. Glenn, S. J. Hare, J. S. E. Robinson, J. E. Stevenson, Ashville, Ala.
A. P. Cobb, Hood, Ala.
J. C. Harris, Moody, Ala.
J. W. Lawley, Branchville, Ala.
J. C. Bice, John Perry, Beaver Valley, Ala.
James Bowlen, Cottage Hill, Ala.
Paul Castleberry, C. J. Pike, R. C. Chaney, Easonville, Ala.
W. P. Lovell, Cook Springs, Ala.
W. C. McLaughlin, Leeds, Ala.
J. A. Owen, J. O. Layton, Ragland, Ala.
G. W. Lovell, Steels Depot, Ala.
W. I. Brasher, Vandiver, Ala.
J. J. Churchwell, Argo, Ala.
F. F. Green, Murcle, Ala.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF ST. CLAIR COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR YEAR 1898.

	CHURCHES.	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Missions in general	Ministerial Education.	Orphans' Home.	Minutes.
1	Ashville,				5 00	135 00		2 50
2	Bethany					55		45
3	Bethel,				5 85		2 00	1 75
4	Beulah.							2 00
5	Cane Creek,				2 00			50
6	Cedar Grove,							90
7	Coal City,				6 85	3 00		1 75
8	Cook Springs,				13 00			1 50
9	Cool Springs,				2 15			1 00
10	Eden							80
11	Friendship							1 50
12	Greensport				2 15			65
13	Gum Springs							1 25
14	Harmony		40					50
15	Hopewell				25	8 00		1 00
16	Macedonia				75			50
17	Mt. Castle							50
18	Mt. Pisgah		85	6 16				2 00
19	Mt. Pleasant				7 50			1 50
20	Mt. Zion							50
21	New Hope	77	2 00	2 00				1 25
22	New Hope (Jefferson)				4 00			1 00
23	New Lebanon				1 00			50
24	New Prospect							1 50
25	Pleasant Grove				1 00			75
26	Pleasant Grove (Shelby)							2 00
27	Pleasant Ridge		25					25
28	Pleasant Site							1 00
29	Providence							75
30	Pine Forest							50
31	Ragland							50
32	Reeves Grove			8 10		6 00		1 00
33	Rock Springs						50	50
34	Sand Ridge		75					70
35	Shiloh							50
36	Trinity							50
37	Union							50
38	Union Springs		2 15				2 25	100
39	Collecting at Association				10 68	1 75	17 38	
	Total	77	$6 40	$16 26	$62 18	$154 30	$22 13	$37 75

Statistics of St. Clair County Association, 1898.

	CHURCH.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POST OFEICE.	Membership Last Report.	INCREASED BY			DECREASED BY			Present Membership.	SUNDAY SCHOOL			Preaching Sabbath	Prayer Meeting.	Reports Revival
							Baptism	Letter	Restoration.	Letter	Exclusion	Death		Officers and Teachers.	Pupils	Superintendent's Name and Post Office.			
1	Ashville,	St. Clair	J A Glenn	W T Montgomery	Ashville	1 60	2	8		3		1	166		50	J A Embry, Ashville.	2nd	yes	yes
2	Bethany	"	S J Hare	H W McBrayer	Cottage Hill	40		3					43	6	50		4th		
3	Bethel,	"	J S E Robinson	J F Wyatt	Taylorsburg	86		17		5	1		97	6	59		3rd		
4	Beulah.	Shelby	J W Lawley	W H Falkner	Sterett	1 00	2			15		2	85				4th		yes
5	Cane Creek,	St. Clair	J C Harris	J C Wesson	Cook Springs	41	5	8	2	5	1		50						
6	Cedar Grove,	"	G W Lovell	F B Moore	Leeds	45		4		2			47				4th		
7	Coal City,	"	J A Glenn	G W Daughdrill	Coal City	53	18	21		2		2	88	7	75	A R Wyatt, Coal City.	3rd	yes	yes
8	Cook Springs,	"	W P Lovell	J R Carreker	Cook Springs	76		6		10			72	7	56	J P Carreker, Cook Springs.			yes
9	Cool Springs,	"	N A Hood	T D Moore	Oldtown	104	7	6		10			107	6	50	T D Moore, Oldtown.	1st	yes	yes
10	Eden	Jefferson	J S Jernigan	J M McCombs	Henry Ellen	40		3				1	42				2nd		yes
11	Friendship	St. Clair	J S E Robinson	Jno L Mize	Beaver Valley	157	5	1		5		1	151				4th		yes
12	Gum Springs	"	J S E Robinson	G I Palmer	Pulaski	167	3	2		11		1	160			W O Palmer, Pulaski.	2nd	yes	yes
13	Greensport	"	N A Hood	W J Watson	Canterberry	55	6	2		1			62				2nd		
14	Harmony	"	W F Isbell	S M Patman	Brompton	7							17				4th		yes
15	Hopewell	"	J E Stevenson	R M Thompson	Hood	100	3			7			96				3rd		yes
16	Mt. Castle	"	J S Bowlin	H A Jackson	Ragland	33	3	12		5			44		71				yes
17	Mt. Pisgah	"	W P Lovell	T G Watson	Easonville	178		4		8	3	2	169				2nd		
18	Mt. Pleasant	"	C J Pike	J M Rich	WolfCreek	99	10	4		15	1	1	97	8	40				yes
19	Mt. Zion	"	J C Harris	F M Prayton	Moody								27						
20	New Hope	"	W P Lovell	J M Garrett	Eden	132	11	20		6	1		156	8	65	H B Guy, Eden.	4th	yes	yes
21	New Hope	Jefferson	F F Green	M S Gloss	Irondale	59	5	1		7	2		56	3		M S Gloss, Irondale.	1st		yes
22	New Lebanon	St. Clair	J W Lawley	Columbus Simmons	Springville	40	4					1	43						yes
23	New Prospect	St. Clair	J S E Robinson	E M Chapman	Fairview	87	6	4	2	3	1	1	94		70				yes
24	New Prospect	Jefferson																	
25	Pleasant Grove	St. Clair	C J Pike	W L Stines	Riverside	50				1			49						
26	Pleasant Grove	Shelby	J W Lawley	J M Mundine	Vandiver	72	12	2		3		2	81					yes	yes
27	Pleasant Ridge	"	J T Daniel	E B Campbell	Dunnavant	10	4	6		3			17				3rd	yes	yes
28	Pleasant Site	"	W I Brasher	J A Howard	Merkel		3	4			3	1	50				4th		yes
29	Providence	St. Clair	J O Layton	J T Mewburn	Ragland	64	4	1				1	68						yes
30	Ragland	"	J O Layton	W W Griffin	Ragland		5	18	1				32						
31	Reeves Grove	"	N A Hood	J C Sheffield	Whitney	105	13	4					122			J C Sheffield, Whitney	3rd	yes	yes
32	Rock Springs	"	W C McLaughlin	G T Allison	Moody	37		11	1	14			35				2nd		
33	Sand Ridge	Shelby	W I Brasher	C T Isbell	Dunnavant	40							47				2nd		yes
34	Shiloh	St. Clair	J W Perry	T J Johnson	Ashville	31				9		1	21						yes
35	Trinity	Shelby	W I Brasher							3		2	22				1st		
36	Union	St. Clair	J W Perry		Beaver Valley	20	1			2			19						yes
37	Union Springs	"	J C Harris	R F Courson	Branchville	64	9		1	6			69				1st		
38	Pine Forest	"	J C Harris	J M McCrory	Pine Forest	36		2		5			33		45	S B crow, Pine Forest.	3rd		yes
39	Macedonia	"	J O Layton	J D Chamness	Ragland		2	2	5				34						
	Total					2 480	143	176	12	166	13	19	2 668	44	575				

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

ART. 1. We believe in one only true and living God—the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, three in one.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only true rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of original sin; of the depravity of human nature; of man's inability to recover himself from his fallen condition by his own free will and holiness.

4. We believe in the doctrine of election according to the foreknowledge of God through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the merits of Jesus Christ, and that good works are the external evidences of the Christian's justified state.

6. We believe that the saints shall persevere through grace, being kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, and not finally fall away.

7. We believe the Church of Christ to be a congregation of baptized believers, scripturally organized for the maintenance of the worship of God and the ordinances and duties of his house.

8. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, to be kept up by his Church until his second coming, and that true believers are the only scriptural subjects of baptism, and that immersion only is baptism, and that none but baptized believers have a right to the Lord's Supper.

9. We believe in a Divine call to the ministry, and that no man has a right to administer the ordinances of the church only such as have been called of God, regularly baptized, approved by the church, and come under the imposition of hands by a presbytery.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment.

11. We believe that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.